

**June 2000**

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## **Do You Know a Student Who Competed in the Lab's Science Fair?**

- 2,100 people cheered and applauded scientific research done by 660 kindergarten through sixth-grade participants at the sixteenth Annual Laboratory Elementary Schools Science Fair, held on Saturday, May 13.
- Students who already won grade-level science-fair contests at their own schools competed with others from 111 Suffolk County schools.
- Large banners were given to the schools with first-place winners; each student received a blue ribbon for representing his/her school and First Place and numerous Honorable Mention ribbons were awarded, as well. Proud parents, relatives and friends shared in the celebration with students who had earned a place in the BNL Science Fair.

## **Magnetic Levitation (Maglev)**

- Long Island, like many areas in the U.S., has traffic congestion problems. Many experts believe that the best way to solve them is to design new transportation systems.
- One approach is to develop "Maglev" vehicles that float over a fixed track, supported (levitated) and driven by magnetic fields. This is like flying, with lift provided by magnets instead of wings. So, while barely leaving the ground, the Maglev vehicle might be able to go as fast as an airplane.
- Middle school students built and tested model Maglev vehicles at the Lab's annual Maglev contest this past May. The vehicles were tested for speed, appearance and efficiency, according to engineering specifications.
- James Powell and Gordon Danby, two researchers from Brookhaven, were recently awarded the 2000 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Engineering by The Franklin Institute for their pioneering research in developing a magnetically levitated train and subsequent work in the field.



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## Science Education at Brookhaven

- Each year, Brookhaven National Laboratory welcomes students for a variety of programs and opportunities to learn about science.
- Our *Science Museum* offers hands-on science activities for students in grades 1-8. The museum is colorful, exciting and includes lessons in electricity, magnifiers and microscopes, and sound and light, to name just a few. Lessons follow the New York State Science Syllabus and reflect the National Science Education Standards, geared to the students' academic levels. Over 15,000 students came to the Lab during the 1999-2000 school year.
- Over 100 students from high schools and two-year and four-year colleges will come to the Lab this summer to participate in cutting-edge scientific research programs directed by Laboratory staff members. Included in the summer experience at BNL will be lectures by BNL scientific staff, tours of research facilities and hands-on research as part of a BNL research team.

## RHIC at the Threshold...

- Brookhaven scientists achieved the first simultaneous circulation of beams in both rings of the Laboratory's new Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider on May 26, 2000.
- It is anticipated that beam collisions will be established during June, with physics operation starting as soon as uniform conditions have been achieved.
- The entire Laboratory community is looking forward to "first collisions" and the promise of exciting new scientific research into the basic properties of matter. Check the website for regular updates: <http://www.rhichome.bnl.gov/AP/Status/>

## Planning your Summer Calendar?



- Consider coming to Brookhaven for one of our Summer Sunday tours. On Sundays from July 9 to August 27 the Lab will open a different facility each week to the public. Guided bus tours run continuously between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Admission is free and no reservations are needed.
- In addition, the "Whiz Bang Science Show," popular with both adults and children, will be shown at 10:30 a.m., 12 noon, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. each Sunday during the program except August 20.
- On August 20, Dr. Stephen Dewey, a BNL researcher who has already spoken to hundreds of thousands of Long Islanders, will talk about his exciting research on addiction and how cocaine, alcohol, and tobacco affect brain function. Same times as above.

## Upcoming Events: *Free and Open to the Public*

- June 14 – The Alhambra group presents a program of Sephardic music for voices and instruments in Berkner Hall, noon.